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Operations

COMBAT NIGHTHAWK PROGRAM

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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 10-2, *Readiness*, and provides guidance from USAFE Instruction 10-203, *Combat and Special Interest Programs*. This instruction establishes requirements and procedures regarding Combat Nighthawk for personnel assigned to Aviano Air Base. Maintain and dispose of records created as a result of prescribed processes in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 37-139, *Records Disposition Schedule*.

1. Program Overview.

1.1. Combat Nighthawk is a leadership development and career-broadening program designed for Company Grade Officers (CGO) and Senior Noncommissioned Officers (SNCO). One CGO and one SNCO from different base organizations form a Combat Nighthawk team. Pairing CGOs and SNCOs from different organizations gives each a broader perspective on the roles and responsibilities of different groups and squadrons within the wing or group. Finally, the Combat Nighthawk program will introduce team members to the many varied and often transparent facets of an operational air base. The intended by-product of this program is well-rounded CGOs and SNCOs that possess a broad perspective on air base operations.

2. Responsibilities.

2.1. Combat Nighthawk Wing POCs will:

- 2.1.1. Administer the Combat Nighthawk program on behalf of the wing commander, coordinating with base agencies to ensure the program is successful.
- 2.1.2. Build and publicize the weekly Nighthawk schedule. Nighthawk assignments for the current and future week will be displayed at each Wing Readiness Council Meeting.
- 2.1.3. Acquire necessary resources such as reflective belts, vehicle placards, and flashlights.
- 2.1.4. Maintain program materials such as continuity binders and activity logs.

2.1.5. Report monthly metrics to HQ USAFE.

2.2. Group commanders and equivalents will appoint a primary and alternate scheduler to fill CGO and SNCO slots assigned to their organizations.

2.3. Group schedulers will ensure CGOs and SNCOs from their groups are scheduled and notified at least 2 weeks prior to their assigned duty. A weekly list of Nighthawk names is due to the Wing POCs and Wing Operations Center via e-mail NLT the Monday one week prior to their duty.

2.3.1. Group schedulers are expected to assign Nighthawk duties amongst their squadrons based on population and mission requirements.

2.3.2. To achieve the goal of maximizing professional development opportunities for all CGOs and SNCOs, individuals should not be scheduled for a second Nighthawk shift until all other eligible individuals in the group have been provided the opportunity. 2.3.3. Individuals will not be scheduled for two Nighthawk shifts in one week.

2.3.3. In the event a scheduled individual cannot perform Nighthawk duty, the group scheduler will fill the empty slot with an individual from their group and notify the Wing POCs and Command Post. If the group scheduler is unable to fill the slot due to a short notice conflict (e.g. illness or mission requirements), he/she must call the Wing Operations Center to ensure the second Nighthawk is directed to pull the shift alone.

2.3.4. Any schedule changes affecting more than one group must be approved by the Wing POCs.

2.4. The Maintenance Operations Center Chief will:

2.4.1. Provide a location to maintain Combat Nighthawk materials such as reflective belts, flashlights, continuity binders, and logbooks.

2.4.2. Appoint an individual to help the Nighthawk pairs begin and end their duties each evening.

2.4.3. Ensure a Land-Mobile Radio (LMR) is available for use each evening from 1800-2400.

2.4.4. Ensure the Nighthawks are informed via LMR of any significant events during their shift.

2.5. The Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander will ensure an appropriate government vehicle is available each evening from 1800-2400.

2.6. The Services Squadron Commander will ensure Nighthawks are permitted to eat in the dining facility as the wing commander's representative.

3. Procedures.

3.1. When assigned for duty, each Nighthawk will be directed to report to the Wing Operations Center, Bldg. 1360 in BDUs or flight suit with appropriate cold/inclement weather gear.

3.2. Nighthawks will start their shift in the Wing Operations Center by reviewing the Combat Nighthawk continuity book and receiving a situation briefing from the duty controller. Prior to departure, they will obtain reflective belts, vehicle placards, and an LMR.

3.3. Nighthawks will proceed to Vehicle Operations to obtain their vehicle. Vehicle inspections must be performed on the Form 1800 each evening.

- 3.4. During their shift, Nighthawks are expected to visit as many after-hours facilities as possible in accordance with the procedures outlined in the continuity book. They will report any unusual activity to the Wing Operations Center or Security Forces as appropriate.
- 3.5. Nighthawks will eat in the base dining facility during their shift.
- 3.6. Significant events, locations visited, and any problems or recommended improvements will be annotated on the Nighthawk log.
- 3.7. The role of Combat Nighthawk is primarily for professional development. As such, Nighthawks do not exercise authority over the base during their shift. A system of “see and report” is appropriate when problems or unusual events are encountered. As always, Nighthawks are expected to exercise the authority vested in them as commissioned and noncommissioned officers in safety or emergency situations.
- 3.8. Nighthawks will not drive on the flightline unless they possess a flightline driver’s competency card. They will not enter controlled/restricted areas unless they have the appropriate credentials or are escorted.
- 3.9. Nighthawks will use the radio call sign “Nighthawk.” They will maintain frequent radio contact with the Wing Operations Center and notify them any time they will be out of radio contact.
- 3.10. Before completing their shift, Nighthawks will return the vehicle to Vehicle Operations and return placards, reflective belts, radios, and the continuity book to the Wing Operations Center.

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Commander